

AA ~~27. The method for producing a swing arm for a two-wheeled motor vehicle as defined in claim 25, wherein the urethane foam is mixed with gum-based particles and has a density of 0.050 g/cm³ to 0.500 g/cm³...~~

REMARKS

Responsive to paragraph 3 of the office action, the specification has been reviewed and corrections made to cure various errors therein, including those noted by the examiner. The "Substitute Specification and Abstract" contains no new matter. In order that the examiner can satisfy himself in this regard, also submitted herewith is a marked-up copy of the original specification and abstract, from which the "Substitute Specification and Abstract" was typed.

Responsive to paragraph 5 of the office action, the claims in question have either been cancelled or have been amended to address each of the problems noted by the examiner.

It is believed that the rejection of claims 18 and 19, as set forth in paragraph 7 of the office action, is now moot in view of cancellation of claims 18 and 19. While a new claim 25 presented here roughly corresponds to original claim 18, the examiner will note that new claim 25 defines the foam resin as "a preformed urethane foam" and, therefore, does not appear to be susceptible to the ground of rejection set forth in paragraph 7 of the office action.

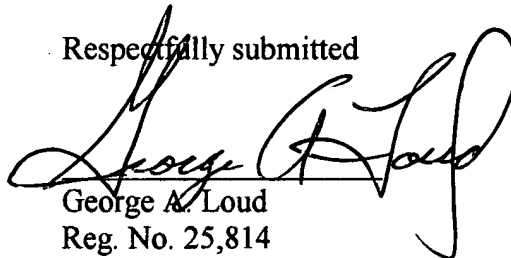
The rejection of claims 13-15, 18 and 19 for obviousness over Yamagiwa et al in view of

Japanese Utility Model Publication 01-106390 is also traversed. As taught at page 4, line 24, page 5, line 5 of applicant's original specification, effective control of resonance due to engine vibration requires that the density of the foam to be within the range of 0.010 to 0.500 g/cm³. In contrast, neither Yamagiwa et al nor JP'390 mention density of the damping material, much less attach any importance to density. As the examiner correctly notes, Yamagiwa et al disclose the use of a polyurethane foam as damping material for filling body frame portions. However, the polyurethane foams are not described in detail or in a manner that would allow for determination of density or in a manner that would indicate preference for a given density. At column 6, lines 36-52, Yamagiwa et al describe the polyurethane foams as "soft, semi-rigid and hard." However, there is no correlation between hardness and density. In polyurethane foams a high density foam is not necessarily harder than a low density foam of the same composition. Japanese Utility Model '390 suggests the swing arm can be filled with "gum, sponge or the like". The teaching suggests equal effectiveness of sponge and gum. That "gum" is not a foamed or porous material suggests that density is of no importance and, in this sense, the reference leads away from the present invention.

New claims 24 and 27 are limited to the preferred embodiment described, for example, at page 11, lines 18-23, of applicants' original specification, i.e., use of a mixture of a urethane resin and gum-based particles. No reference of record mentions such a material, much less suggests the use of same claimed here.

In conclusion, it is respectfully requested that the examiner reconsider the rejections of record with a view toward allowance of the claims as amended.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George A. Loud", is written over a horizontal line.

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Appendix

Claims 13-17 are amended as follows:

13. (Amended) A method for producing a swing arm for a two-wheeled motor vehicle having an arm portion and a body portion, both of which have a hollow portion, the hollow portion being at least partly filled with a foam resin, said method comprising: [characterized by at least,]

filling [up] at least a part of said hollow portions with a [the] raw material for forming a urethane foam [of a foam resin]; and

foaming said raw material of urethane foam to form, within at least the partially filled hollow portion, the urethane foam having a density of 0.010g/cm³ to 0.500 g/cm³.

14. (Amended) The method for producing a swing arm for a two-wheeled motor vehicle as defined in claim 13, wherein [characterized in that] said raw material of the urethane foam [resin] is introduced at a threaded opening by which said swing arm is mounted to said two-wheeled motor vehicle.

15. (Amended) The method for producing a swing arm for a two-wheeled motor vehicle as defined in claim 13, wherein [characterized in that] said raw material of the urethane foam [resin] is introduced at an opening provided in a free distal [at the] end of said arm portion.

16. (Amended) The method for producing a swing arm for a two-wheeled motor vehicle as defined in claim 14, wherein [characterized in that] the openings, other than the opening at which said raw material of the urethane foam [resin] is introduced, are closed by means of a

mesh sheet.

17. (Amended) The method for producing a swing arm for a two-wheeled motor vehicle as defined in claim 15, wherein the openings, other than the [characterized in that said] opening provided at the [said] end of the [said] arm portion to introduce the raw material of the urethane foam, are [is] closed by means of a [said] mesh sheet.

Claims 23-27 have been added.